

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 36-57 have been newly added. All remaining claims are thought to be allowable over the cited art. Support for the newly added claims may be found throughout the instant application, such as, e.g., in FIGs. 4, 7, and 9 and paragraphs [0033]-[0040], [0059-0065], and [0069]-[0074].

37 C.F.R. §75(c)

Claims 20, 29, and 35 are objected to under 37 C.F.R. §75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. The objection is considered moot in view of the cancellation of Claims 20, 29, and 35.

35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The rejection is considered moot in view of the cancellation of Claims 1-35. Applicant respectfully submits that newly added Claims 36-57 more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejects claims 1-35 as being unpatentable admitted prior art (hereinafter "APA"). The rejection is considered moot in view of the cancellation of Claims 1-35.

Newly added Claims 36-57 patentably distinguish over the APA at least because the APA fails to teach or suggest the ability to synchronize multiple cost signal processing stages of, for example, an add-compare-select circuit. In particular, the APA fails to teach or suggest the use of multiple clocked storage stages to store the intermediate results of operations performed by the add-compare-select circuit (e.g., the claimed "first synchronization circuit" and "second synchronization circuit").

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and a notice of allowance are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks presented above. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, a telephone call to the undersigned is invited at (408) 879-4682 (Pacific Time).

Respectfully submitted,
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being filed via EFS-Web with the United States Patent & Trademark Office on June 12, 2009.

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